

**REMARKS:**

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of September 21, 2004 and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. The specification has also been amended to explain a relation which is shown in the drawings which will be discussed later.

The drawings have been amended to designate Figs. 5 and 6 as prior art.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Nakashima ('976).

Claims 4-6 are objected to and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

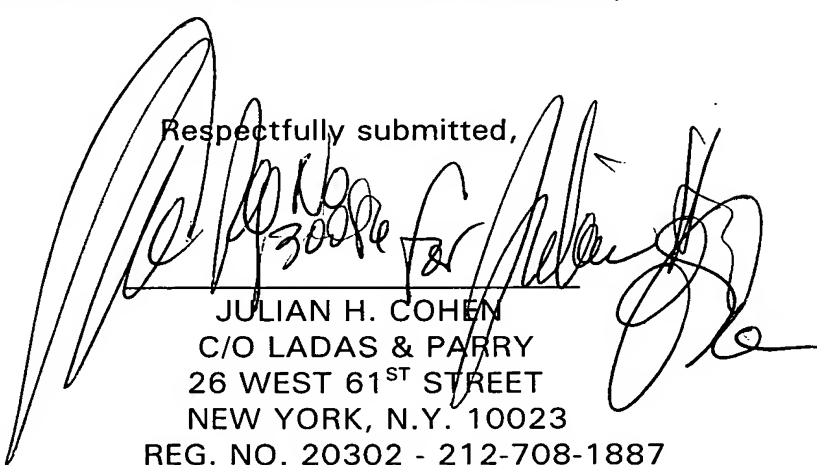
Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the branches (21a, 21b, 21c) have the same diameter as the fuel feed pipe 12. This is clearly illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4 and is now incorporated into the specification as support for the amended language of claim 1. As pointed out in the specification, the invention is based on suppression of pressure pulsation, noise and vibration in the fuel distribution system. This is achieved as demonstrated in Figs. 2 and 3 by balanced attenuation of waves propagated in the branch pipes (see page 3, last

paragraph) and wave attenuation in the branch pipes produces reduced pulsation in the fuel feed pipe.

In contrast with the equal diameters of the branch pipes and the feed pipe as now claimed in claim 1, Nakashima discloses that the fuel distribution line 3 has a different diameter than the fuel feed pipe 6 (Fig. 1). The various changes in diameter along the fuel distribution path will lead to pulsation and noise generation which the present invention specifically seeks to avoid.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Please replace drawing sheet 3 on file with the attached replacement drawing sheet 3 in which Figs. 5 and 6 are labeled "prior art".